



Among Friends

A Publication of the Friends of the Chula Vista Library

Fall 2015

Library improvements in the works

A renovated auditorium and a children's "energy lounge." A city park and a pedestrian-friendly "parklet." Plus extended hours at Otay Ranch and a new home for the Heritage Museum.

Those are just a few of the upgrades coming this fall to the three branch libraries, thanks to a boost in city funding, as well as various grants and contributions from the Friends. Here's a quick rundown.

Otay Ranch: More hours

Beginning this fall, the busy east-side branch will be open seven days a week, the result of city funding for a new senior librarian position and a donation from the Chula Vista Public Library Foundation. Operating hours will be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12 noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

The branch will kick off its new hours on Sunday, October 18, with "Swing Into the Library," an afternoon of swing dancing and big band music. The fun will begin in The Hub at 2 p.m. with a free, 45-minute class in East Coast swing, followed by more dancing and a public performance by the 17-piece Downbeat Big Band in the mall's Food Pavilion from 3 to 5 p.m.

Hosted by the Friends, this event is made possible

in part by a grant through the City of Chula Vista and the Chula Vista Performing & Visual Arts Grant.

Civic Center: Less orange

The 2015-16 city budget includes \$75,000 for renovations to the Civic Center auditorium and a new home for the Chula Vista Heritage Museum. Work on the auditorium began earlier this year and includes new carpet, paint and seating, as well as upgrades to the room's mechanicals. A grant from SDG&E provided new lighting, and a Public Education and Government grant funded improvements to the sound system and monitors.

The Civic Center Friends contributed \$20,000 toward the auditorium facelift, with an additional

\$5,000 from the Stanley Stearns bequest.

Meanwhile, the Chula Vista Heritage Museum, which is operated by the Friends, will soon have its own exhibit space inside the Civic Center library.

The museum closed its location in Memorial Park on June 30, and the building will be demolished as a part of Third Avenue improvements designed to create a public plaza and open vistas into the park.

Approximately 500 square feet has been set aside for the museum in the northwest corner of the library. The new space will allow for extended hours and increased public access for museum exhibits on local history.

The CVPL Foundation contributed \$5,000 for this project, as well as \$5,000 toward the auditorium.

Finally, bulldozers went to work in August, converting the parking lot east of the library into a pedestrian-friendly space, thanks to a \$20,000 grant from the Chula Vista Charitable Foundation. Part of the lot will become a "parklet" to serve as a community gathering space and a natural extension of Friendship Park to the north.

Continued on page 2



Making it green: Members of the Chula Vista Garden Club spiffed up planters at the Civic Center library and garden areas at the South Chula Vista branch.

Library upgrades

Continued from Page 1

The new space will also improve pedestrian safety and access to the library entrance.

South CV: Earthy updates

The South Chula Vista branch is getting greener, too, thanks to the efforts of the Chula Vista Garden Club, which is sharing its expertise to spruce up the landscaping around the library. Members recently replanted the space around the front walkway and weeded, planted and watered other garden areas.

In addition, Orange Park, a 3.9-acre city park, will open next to the library this fall, providing children's play equipment, picnic areas, green spaces and a restroom.

Children will have a chance to learn more about the earth and its climate in a new SDG&E Energy Lounge that will feature STEM-related materials, kid-friendly books on the environment and an earth-themed wall mural. A similar lounge is planned at Civic Center.

Are you still a Friend?

Your mailing label shows the month and year of your last membership donation. Renew by returning the form below with your check or visit our website at www.thefcvl.org.

From the Director

Hello, library Friends, and happy fall. Thanks to your help and support, a lot of great things are happening at our three branches.

Your inspirational participation in the Chula Vista Public Library Strategic Vision workshop series several months ago has served as a catalyst to push out new initiatives and keep us moving forward. If you'd like to see what has been accomplished and what is in the works, we invite you to look over our interim progress report. (There is a link on the home page of the Friends' website.)

Here are a couple of examples of the library's response to your vision and direction. You asked that the library provide "access to services at the time and place of need." As a result, we've recently added Freegal, a free music service that you can access from our website. All you need is your library card number and PIN.

Freegal offers about 9 million songs and over 15,000 music videos. There is no software to download; searching is easy by artist, album, song or genre.



Betty Waznis

You can download three Freegal files per week to your computer, phone, or other digital device, and stream five hours of music per day at no cost.

To fulfill your vision of the library as an "experience of place, both physical and

virtual, that is inviting, engaging, welcoming and inspiring," we've begun the "Parking Lot to Parklet" project. Funded by a grant from the Chula Vista Charitable Foundation, the project will transform a portion of the Civic Center parking lot into outdoor programmable space, with a more pedestrian-friendly walkway through the parking lot to the front doors, refreshed landscaping that includes drought-tolerant species, educational signage and a new pedestrian entrance from the corner of F and Garrett to increase walkability.

Your example of service and support inspires us to do our best. We thank you again for your commitment to Chula Vista, its residents and its library.

– Betty Waznis, Director
Chula Vista Public Library

Join, renew or share to make a new Friend!

Yes, I want to support the Chula Vista Public Library and the Chula Vista Heritage Museum as a member of the Friends of the Chula Vista Library. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution, payable to FCVL:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$20) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$50) | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Business (\$150) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Return to: FCVL, P.O. Box 393, Chula Vista, CA 91912. Join or renew online at www.thefcvl.org

They're devoted to the library – and to each other

Although longtime Friends Ron and Lynne Thomas officially retired from volunteering for the Civic Center Friends and library about four years ago, they are still active supporters of both.

Ron started volunteering in December 1993, one day after retiring as executive director of the Tailhook Association, where he had served for 23 years after a 20-year U.S. Navy career. Lynne told Ron he “had to have something else to do.” Ron decided to volunteer at the Civic Center library because he had been researching Coca-Cola advertising in magazines there for a book he is still writing. (Their house in Bonita, built in 1909, is filled with Coca-Cola memorabilia, and the house is painted red and white.)

Ron first worked in the Friends’ workroom, stocking books in the bookstore. He soon became the bookstore manager and then the Civic Center chapter president. Ron also started the three-day book sales at the Civic Center branch.

Ron says he never recorded the many hours he worked because he wanted fellow volunteer Marge Clarke to be recognized as the top volunteer. “Marge was a great volunteer at the bookstore and spent many hours there,” Ron explained. “She was proud of her volunteer time and was recognized every year as the volunteer with the most hours. I had twice as many hours as Marge, but I wanted her to have the recognition because it pleased her so much.”

Ron volunteered for 10 years and then took a 1½-year break. Librarian Donna Golden, who has since retired, asked Ron to come back as she needed someone who was computer-proficient



Loyal Friends: Ron and Lynne Thomas

to check and maintain the library’s book and materials inventory.

Lynne began volunteering for the Friends in 2005, sorting books in the workroom until librarian Gina Latas recruited her to help set aside books for the planned Rancho del Rey library branch. She and Ron also worked with Gina in technical services, helping to process new books and materials.

Lynne and Ron say they met a lot of “wonderful people” at the library and cite Joan and Frank Roseman, Louise Swinney, Don Smith, Bob Laska, Marge Clarke, Selma Harris, Gail Monaghan, Ginny Taylor, Suzie Botts, Harry Labore and Sandy Pasqua.

Lynne and Ron have been married for 53 years and have two sons. Transplanted Midwesterners, they met by mail in January 1959 when Ron was stationed on the USS Saratoga in the Mediterranean and Lynne was studying for her teaching credential at Michigan State.

Ron and his buddies never got mail from young ladies, so they wrote to sororities all over the United States asking for letters. Since they did not have information on any sororities at Michigan State, they wrote to a dormitory, South Campbell Hall, where Lynne happened to live. She saw their letters stating that “three lonely men need mail” and decided to write to

Ron “because he was the only one who had blue eyes.” They exchanged a number of letters and met in person in March 1959 when Ron was on leave in Chicago. (Lynne says she first received permission from her mother.)

Ron proposed in September 1959, giving Lynne a diamond at Union Station in Chicago, with her parents and sister looking on. At the request of Lynne’s parents, they waited to get married until Lynne graduated in 1962. Ron says they gave her “a gorgeous wedding and reception and a Volkswagen Beetle.” The Thomases have had “a garage full of VWs” ever since.

Memorial contributions support library services

Family and friends of the late Selma Harris and Tom Basinski have donated \$1,350 to the Friends, to be used for library books and materials. Library director Betty Waznis noted that Selma was “kind and encouraging” and always positive about library programs. “She was a very inspiring and hard-working volunteer for the betterment of our Chula Vista children.” Of Tom, a colleague noted, “I remember a friendly guy of above-normal intelligence and an entertaining wit. Memories of Tom will always bring a smile to those who knew him.”



Friends of the Chula Vista Library
P.O. Box 393
Chula Vista, CA 91912

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHULA VISTA, CA
PERMIT NO. 307

Join, donate, stay informed: Visit the Friends' website at www.thefcvl.org

Kid stuff: Friends support Summer Reading and '1,000 Books' effort

The Chula Vista Public Library has joined the "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" initiative, which encourages parents to read at least 1,000 books to their children by age 5. Children who are read to as infants and toddlers have an easier time learning to read and are more successful in school.

The library will provide dinosaur-themed reading logs, in English and Spanish, for parents to track the number of books they read and will offer prizes along the way.

The Friends executive board has pledged \$5,000 to support the

program with materials and new picture books at all three branch libraries. You can help us reach that goal by sending your tax-deductible donation

to the Friends 2015 Book Fund, P.O. Box 393, Chula Vista 91912 or by donating online at www.thefcvl.org.

A total of 2,879 children, teens and adults recorded more than 18,000 hours of reading during the library's Summer Reading Program that ended July 18. With a theme of "Reading to the Rhythm," the annual program included music-themed activities partially funded through a City of Chula Vista Performing & Visual Arts grant. The Friends also underwrote a major part of the program.

At the Civic Center and South Chula Vista branches, children were also offered a free lunch through a program designed to ensure that students receive adequate nutrition during school vacations. (Library staff served 2,313 lunches and 1,125 snacks!) The Friends provided books and supplies for lunchtime activities, while Sprouts donated fruit for the parents.

The library received a \$500 state grant to provide nutrition education during mealtimes. The program concluded with a grand prize drawing for a Razor scooter, and children were asked to complete a nutrition-themed word puzzle for each entry. Remaining grant funds will be used to purchase children's books on nutrition.

